

Parks and Green Spaces Committee Meeting Minutes
June 5, 2015 from 2:00 – 3:00pm
At the Village Hall

Committee Members Present: Carol Coffin, Susie Eig, Judy Elliott and Susan Kilborn

Staff: Shana Davis-Cook, Village Manager, Dr. Tolbert Feather, Village Arborist, and Michael Younes, Director of Municipal Operations

Board Liaison: Elissa Leonard

The meeting began by looking at Dr. Feather's revised landscaping plan for the south and west sides of the Village Hall that had been discussed at the May 11, 2015 meeting. In the revised plan Climbing Hydrangea and Carex Pennsylvanica replace the Manhattan Euonymus and Repandens Yew of the original plan.

The two additional trees in the revised plan are white flowering Redbud trees to be placed in the southern parking island in front of the Village Hall entrance. An Amelanchier tree (Serviceberry) is planned for the parking lot.

An effort will be made to find a native climbing hydrangea if possible. Those present were in agreement that the revised plan looks like a good one. Dr. Feather was thanked for his gracious and generous help in revising the planting plan for the west/south side of the Village Hall.

Attention then turned to the Charles Shaw 1992 Landscaping Plan for the Village Hall and Connecticut Avenue that had recently been located. Two of the cherry trees in the line of trees here have died and have been removed. There are two more ill cherry trees along the front of the building. Those present at the meeting went outside to consider how the front of the building looks now. It is hoped the failing line of cherry trees will be replaced by new line of trees (*Nyssa sylvatica* were mentioned) so that the original plan of a line of trees can be kept.

The Montgomery County Weed Warriors training programs will be held on June 24 and July 22. Meghan Fellows, the coordinator, can be reached at 301 962-1343 or the website is www.weedwarrior.org. Pokeberry and ivy growing up trees are particularly bad in Laurel Park.

The memorial garden in the large triangle park proposed by the landscape architect Lila Fendrick to honor Bob Elliott will be discussed at the June Board of Manager's meeting.

Under old business, mulching was again discussed. The effort to avoid having a volcano of mulch surrounding trees in the parks is an ongoing one. The use of mulched circles around trees and shrubs was begun to protect the bark of trees from being damaged and to discourage weeds. Some suggested that the circles of mulch be eliminated altogether while others saw the positive effect of them as long as the mulch was not too deeply applied.

In the Western Grove Park benches are not being cemented in place. Since they are free to be moved there is more flexibility for use of the benches.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Judy Elliott

Susan Kilborn, co-chairs